(b) directing vapors formed in the reaction zone to a distillation means to form an azeotrope containing 10 wt. % or less of water;

(c) condensing the azeotrope to form an condensate;

(d) separating the condensate into an organic phase rich in ethyl acetate and an aqueous phase rich in water; and

(e) directing at least a portion of the organic phase rich in ethyl acetate to the reaction zone to act as an azeotroping agent.--

--10. (Amended) A process for producing ethyl acetate comprising:

(a) contacting acetic acid and ethanol in a reaction zone in the presence of a catalyst;

(b) directing vapors formed in the reaction zone to a distillation means to form an azeotrope containing 10 wt. % or less of water;

(c) condensing the azeotrope to form an condensate;

(d) separating the condensate into an organic phase rich in ethyl acetate and an aqueous phase rich in water;

(e) directing at least a portion of the organic phase rich in ethyl acetate to a membrane separation unit to form a dried organic stream; and

(f) directing at least a portion of the dried organic stream to the distillation means to act as an azeotroping agent.—

A clean version of the foregoing claims is also attached at Appendix A. A marked-up version showing changes to the claims appears as Appendix B.